

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Patterson of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for his time and consideration in participating in an interview with Applicants' representative on October 4, 2006. The Interview Summary accurately reflects the substance of the interview.

During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the amendment of claim 1 to recite a "tubular or pipe multilayer structure." At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed that amending claim 1 to recite such feature should be sufficient to overcome the outstanding rejections (see Interview Summary).

Accordingly, by the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended for clarification purposes to recite a tubular or pipe multilayer structure. Support for such amendment can be found in the present specification at least at page 23, lines 12-14. Claims 4 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Entry of the above amendments is proper at least because a Request for Continued Examination is being filed herewith. See 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

In the Official Action, claims 1-3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,920,879 (*Segal et al*) in view of German Patent Document No. 1 595 496 (*DE '496*). Claims 4-9, 19-21 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,219,003 (*Kerschbaumer*). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,256,460 (*Yu*). Claims 12 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496* and *Kerschbaumer*, and further in view of European Patent Document No. 0 646 627 (*EP '627*). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496* and *Kerschbaumer*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,357,030 (*VanBuskirk et al*). Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496* and *Kerschbaumer*, and further in view of *Yu*. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Segal et al* in view of *DE '496*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,881,576 (*Kitami et al*). Withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

As discussed during the interview, *Segal et al* fails to disclose or suggest a tubular or pipe multilayer structure as now recited in claim 1. In addition, no motivation or suggestion exists in view of the applied art of record, to modify *Segal et al* to arrive at the claimed tubular or pipe multilayer structure, without an improper resort to Applicants' own disclosure. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the above §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

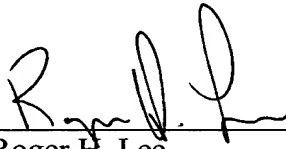
If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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